

Appl. No. : 09/787,784
Filed : July 30, 2001

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has rejected Claims 9-30. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 9-30 in light of the present remarks is respectfully requested.

Discussion of Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 9-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,834,110 to Marconcini, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,559,887 to Davis, et al.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that Marconcini is not available as prior art for the present application. Specifically, Marconcini issued from an application filed December 10, 1999. As recited on the Official Filing Receipt mailed by the USPTO on August 17, 2001, the present application is a national phase application based on PCT Application No. PCT/GB99/03140, filed on September 21, 1999, which claims priority to U.K. Application No. 9820558.6, which was filed on September 21, 1998. Thus, because the filing dates of both the international application on which the present application is based, and the U.K. application to which the international application claims priority are prior to the filing date of Marconcini (December 10, 1999), Applicant respectfully submits that Marconcini is not prior art for the present application.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections of Claims 9-30 based on Marconcini be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 8/20/05

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